

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

4 MAR 1993

*Deletis*  
*230*  
*Secretary 222*

IN REPLY REFER TO:

*NMD 92-266*

RECEIVED 8310-MEA  
CN9300411

MAR 11 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Julio Solano  
16511 Silverhill Drive  
Tampa, FL 33624

Dear Mr. Solano:

Congressman Michael Bilirakis has asked me to respond to your letter in which you complain about rate increases by your local cable television operator.

The Commission has a clear understanding that Congress adopted the Cable Act of 1992 to constrain unreasonable cable rates. The Commission is in the process of formulating rules implementing the rate provisions of the law and is seeking public comment on those provisions that address rate rollbacks, refunds, and evasions of statutory requirements. The Commission will attempt to implement these provisions faithfully, and will consider the conduct of the cable industry during the interim period in deciding what kind of regulation is needed.

Your letter will be placed in the record of this proceeding so that the Commission can be mindful of your concerns during its deliberations. I trust that the foregoing and the enclosures are informative.

Sincerely,

*Roy J. Stewart*

Roy J. Stewart  
Chief, Mass Media Bureau

Enclosures

No. of Copies rec'd 041  
UNABODE

MICHAEL BILIRAKIS  
9TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FINANCE  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND COMPETITIVENESS

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
RANKING MEMBER, OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN,  
YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

CHAIRMAN, TASK FORCE ON THE ELDERLY  
CO-CHAIRMAN, TASK FORCE ON  
INFANT MORTALITY  
CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0909

October 17, 1992

379042 jm

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

- ☐ WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2432 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0909  
(202) 225-5755
- ☐ DISTRICT OFFICES:  
1100 CLEVELAND STREET, SUITE 1600  
CLEARWATER, FL 34615  
(813) 441-3721
- ☐ 2739 U.S. HWY. 19, SUITE 110  
HOLIDAY, FL 34691  
(813) 847-1022
- ☐ 408 WEST RENFRO STREET  
SUITE 107F  
PLANT CITY, FL 33568  
(813) 752-9280

Mr. Julio Solano  
16511 Silverhill Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33624

JAN 08 1993

Dear Mr. Dolano:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your objections to S. 12 and efforts to "re-regulate" cable television service.

I am fundamentally opposed to any congressional action to increase cable rates. As most consumers know, cable rates have increased markedly in the last few years. While there are many reasons for this increase, including the addition of new channels and programming, certainly Congress should not do anything to exacerbate the situation or further drive up rates.

After much study and reflection, however, I did not believe that the final bill recently approved by Congress over the objections of the President would result in higher rates. Instead, I believed it was necessary to end certain abuses within the cable industry.

My opinion was based on several elements. First, the legislation does not raise any cable rate or fee but actually regulates the price of basic tier service. The Federal Communications Commission will now determine "reasonable rates." Second, the bill contains concrete benefits for consumers. Service standards will be imposed on cable operators to ensure that they are responsive to their customers. While many cable operators provide excellent service, there have been instances of "renegades" who have resisted basic standards.

Finally, I do believe that much "misinformation" was generated during the cable debate. The final bill does not require cable operators to pay anyone for the use of their signal -- the bill merely gives the option to broadcasters to withhold their signal from the present 'compulsory' license and possibly negotiate for compensation. There is no provision which dictates anyone paying anything to anybody.

Still, I was distressed by the magnitude of the regulation contained in the bill. I believe that some provisions may prove onerous and could inhibit investment and development in the cable television

On balance, however, I was called upon to balance the  
of my constituents and the complaints that I have received  
such communities as Dunedin and Oldsmar regarding cable  
revision service. While I would have preferred a less oppressive  
-- in the end I believe I voted with my constituents and with  
cable consumers nationwide.

please be assured, however, that I carefully considered your  
comments and the many others that I received from individuals and  
families who were opposed to the bill. You can be certain that I do  
not take such input lightly. In fact, I rely heavily on the views I  
receive from my constituents in shaping my service as your  
representative. You can be certain that I will exercise careful  
oversight over the new law to see that it performs as intended.

Again, thank you for expressing your views.

Sincerely yours,

*Mike*

Michael Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

MB:rjm

NUMBER	SERVICE FROM	SERVICE TO	DATE DUE
002 1878003	DECEMBER 03, 1992	JANUARY 02, 1993	12/16/92
DATE	SERVICE/TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	
11/04	PREVIOUS BALANCE	25.03	
	PAYMENT--THANK YOU	25.03 CR	
	MONTHLY SERVICE	22.45	
	SALES TAX	1.46	
	FRANCHISE FEE	1.12	
	***AMOUNT DUE**	\$25.03	
*****			
SEE IMPORTANT MESSAGE BELOW.			
*****			

PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER NOVEMBER 25 ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS STATEMENT

PREVIOUS BALANCE		PAYMENTS THANK YOU		CURRENT CHARGES		CREDITS		OTHER CHARGES (SEE ABOVE)		TAX/FEE		AMOUNT DUE
25.03	-	25.03	+	22.45	-	0.00	+	0.00	+	2.58	=	\$25.03

AN AMOUNT FOLLOWED BY A (CR) IS A CREDIT OR A CREDIT BALANCE  
 THE FINAL IMPACT ON PRICES FROM RECENTLY PASSED LEGISLATION  
 WILL NOT BE CLEAR FOR AWHILE. WE WILL BE MAKING CHANGES,  
 BEGINNING IN JANUARY, WE BELIEVE REFLECT CONGRESS' INTENTIONS.  
 OUR MONTHLY CHARGES WILL INCREASE BY 5%. THIS INCREASE RE-  
 FLECTS THE EVER-INCREASING COST OF DOING BUSINESS AND WILL  
 ALLOW US TO CONTINUE PROVIDING YOU WITH HIGH QUALITY SERVICE.



PARAGON  
CABLE

Julio A. Solano  
16511 Silverhill Dr.  
Tampa, FL 33624

Handwritten: 12/16/92